

152nd SESSION of the WHO EXECUTIVE BOARD

(Geneva, 30 January- 7th February 2023)

9:30 AM (CET)



**Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
Government of India**

Agenda 6: Political declaration of third high level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, and mental health

(word count:368)

Thank You Chair,

India is fully conscious of the magnitude and challenges posed by NCDs and is taking necessary measures to address it.

There is a need to plan for population-level interventions for prevention, screening, control, and management of NCDs. Beyond the management of illness, focus on wellness and well-being should be prioritized.

There is a need to have defined national action plans for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases, and Stroke which should have specific programmatic interventions for strengthening infrastructure, human resources, diagnosis, and management of NCDs.

Campaigns to promote eating the right kind of food and exercise should be undertaken as national level campaigns to decrease risk factors associated with NCDs.

To make a behavioral change for the adoption of an active lifestyle, Age-Appropriate Fitness Protocols and Guidelines need to be prepared for different age groups.

Chair,

India has developed a National Multi-Sectoral Action Plan for prevention and control of common NCDs which offers a roadmap and menu of policy options to guide multi-sectoral efforts, involving other Ministries towards attaining the NCD targets.

Chair,

India believes that to manage NCDs, it is necessary to **reorient our health system and not focus on treatment but holistic healthcare by incorporating the right lifestyle, promoting traditional medicine in primary health care, and promoting wellness.**

Health screening of the population at primary health care level to detect disease at an early stage is crucial.

There is a need to augment **community communication by studying the demography and targeting the at-risk age groups by utilizing technology and digital tools, particularly social media platforms.**

Post COVID-19, there is a **spike in mental health issues** and additional tools are required to address them with active involvement of the community. India would like to suggest that **mental health should be integrated into the primary health care delivery system.**

For a meaningful impact on the agenda, it is also necessary to **mobilize resources and capacity building of LMICs for optimal service delivery.**

Chair,

Given the serious challenge of NCDs, global efforts are required to address the challenge & they need to be driven by strong and strategic leadership, cost-effective interventions, and multi-sectoral approach.

Thank You!